

tract of the animal prior to administration, where a decrease in the presence of the microbe in the animal after administration of the *Bifidobacterium* indicates inhibition of the replication of the microbe.

28. (Amended) A method for decreasing the risk of colon cancer comprising administering to an animal a *Bifidobacterium* that secretes a siderophore, and detecting the presence of aberrant crypt foci in the colon of the animal, where a lower number of aberrant crypt foci compared to an animal not administered the *Bifidobacterium* indicates a decrease in the risk of colon cancer.

30. (Amended) A method for obtaining a secreted siderophore from a *Bifidobacterium*, the method comprising incubating a *Bifidobacterium* under iron limited conditions, and isolating the siderophore.

33. (Amended) A sterile composition comprising a siderophore obtained from a *Bifidobacterium*.

36. (Amended) A method for decreasing an amount of free iron in a composition, the method comprising adding to a composition a secreted siderophore obtained from a *Bifidobacterium*.

37. (Amended) A method for decreasing an amount of free iron in a composition, the method comprising adding to a composition an isolated siderophore obtained from a *Bifidobacterium*.

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Cont

38. (Amended) A method for inhibiting the replication of a microbe in a composition, the method comprising adding to a composition a secreted siderophore obtained from a *Bifidobacterium*.

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41. (New) A composition consisting essentially of a *Bifidobacterium* that secretes siderophore.

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42. (New) A sterile composition consisting essentially of a siderophore obtained from a *Bifidobacterium*.